



Department of Workforce Services

2008 Legislative Briefing

Legislation

H.B. 21 Employment Security Act Amendments Passed

(Chief Sponsor: Representative Steven R. Mascaro)

(Senate Sponsor: Senator Scott K. Jenkins)

- Waives certain unemployment insurance (UI) filing requirements in the event of a disaster declared by the President or the Governor.
- Clarifies that UI claimants are not required to register for work at an employment center. These processes are done online or by phone.
- Clarifies that UI claimants must remain able and available for work during each week a claim is made unless the individual is in a training program approved by DWS.

H.B. 64 Disclosure of Information by the Department of Workforce Services Passed

(Chief Sponsor: Representative Paul A. Neuenschwander)

(Senate Sponsor: Senator Wayne L. Niederhauser)

- Authorizes DWS to disclose information to the Division of Occupational and Professional Licensing for the purpose of carrying out the programs they administer.
- Updates language related to industry codes or classifications, and makes technical and conforming changes.

S.B. 189 Independent Contractor Database Passed

(Chief Sponsor: Senator Dan R. Eastman)

(House Sponsor: Representative Todd E. Kiser)

- Establishes the Independent Contractor Enforcement Council. The Council will:
 - Direct the design of a database
 - Report data and information related to the database
 - Coordinate regulatory and law enforcement efforts
 - Share information amongst agencies

S.B. 176 Unemployment Insurance Contribution Rate Amendments Passed

(Chief Sponsor: Senator Howard A. Stephenson)

(House Sponsor: Representative Merlynn T. Newbold)

- Defines that effective January 1, 2009
 - The social contribution rate shall be calculated and rounded to three decimal places. The change is required so that social costs are more equitably and accurately charged to all active contributory employers.
 - The adequate unemployment trust fund reserve level is between 18 and 24 months of benefits at the average of the five highest benefit cost rates in the last 25 years. The change is requested to increase the level of trust funds to an adequate level to help stabilize future tax rates and soften the increase in tax rates during a recessionary period.